

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
Department of Natural Resources
Room 1010
December 14, 2004

Minutes

Member Present:

SOWARDS, Glade – Utah Energy Office
KEENE, Michael – Office of Technology & Science
HARTY, Kimm – Utah Geological Survey
BRADWISCH, Bill – Division of Wildlife Resources
WILCOX, Richard – School & Institutional Trust Lands
REICHERT, Mike – DEQ/Division of Water Quality
GRUBAUGH-LITTIG, Pamela – Division of Oil, Gas & Mining
FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources
KAPPE, Karl – Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
SCHLOTTHAUER, Bill – Division of Water Rights
MILLIS, Eric – Division of Water Resources
ZAREKARIZI, Susan – State Parks & Recreation

Others Present:

WRIGHT, Carolyn – Department of Natural Resources
LANDURETH, Brenda – Department of Natural Resources
FROST, Kim – Department of Natural Resources
HIGDON, Matthew – Bureau of Land Management
QUICK, Jeff – Utah Geological Survey

I. Approval of Minutes

Glade Sowards called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Karl Kappe made a motion to approve the November 9, 2004 minutes, and Bill Schlotthauer seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Reports from Agencies on Any Anticipated Projects

Eric Millis, Division of Water Resources, reported that the Leeds Water Company Project Proposal #4675, on the Project Management Library (PML). Will be accepting comments from the RDCC until January 13, 2005.

Kimm Harty reported that Utah Geological Survey (UGS) would provide additional comments on PML #4722. Jeff Quick, UGS coal expert, provided a handout of 2004 draft comments on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules that would regulate mercury emissions power plants. The proposed rules could reduce Utah coal production, and royalty payments to the State, as well as increase mercury emissions. A presentation also will be made to the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division regarding these comments. Department of Natural Resources' comments will be coordinated through Kim Frost. A final decision will be made in March 2005.

Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, reported that the Lila Canyon

Project, Utah American Energy, Inc. is still pursuing a coal mining permit. This proposal is near a Wilderness Study Area and has been protested by the SUWA.

PacifiCorp's Deer Creek Mine in Huntington Canyon is proposing to building a surface facility that would include a manway and move materials in and out of the mine, it would not remove coal from this facility. This proposal has been submitted three times and the fourth proposal was received on December 17, 2004. An environmental assessment is being prepared by Office of Surface Mining.

DOGM is working with Water Rights on the water issues relative to the Skyline Mine and Electric Lake.

Matthew Higdon, Bureau of Land Management, announced that the Vernal Resource Management Plan (RMP) 90-day comment period begins January 7, 2005 ending on April 14, 2005. Final meetings for the RMP will be held mid-February 2005. The Vernal RMP, Salt Lake City meeting will be held on February 23, 2005, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., at the Salt Lake City Library. Meetings will also be held in Vernal, Manila, Grand Junction, and Duchesne.)

The Kanab Field Office RMP is kicking off their first public scoping meeting on January 13, 2005, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., at the Airport Hilton, Salt Lake City. Other scoping meetings will be held in January. The comment period begins this month.

St. George, Utah is working on a Travel Management Plan for their field office to go with their Land Use Management Plan. Meetings will begin in Springville, Utah, on January 4, 2005, and in St. George, Utah on January 5, 2005.

The Richfield Preliminary Draft, Chapter 4, entitled Environmental Consequences will be available for review in January 18-21, 2005, and the Draft Richfield RMP is scheduled to be released on April 11, 2005.

IBLA (BLM interior land appeals board process) released a decision regarding recent oil and gas lease sales. Land use plans that are management framework plans may not meet the NEPA standard. Oil and gas leasing may be impacted.

Karl Kappe, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, reported that the West Rozel lessor is getting serious and is considering barging oil to shore. The lessor has requested for a two-year period royalty relief from the Forestry, Fire and State Lands Advisory Council reduced from 12.5% to 6.25%. If the lessor can demonstrate relief is needed beyond two years an additional request may be made to DFFSL to remain viable the division will consider renewing royalty relief.

The DFFSL will begin working on the Utah Lake Comprehensive Management planning process in February 2005.

Susan Zarekarizi, State Parks and Recreation, reported that they are working on rancher trespassing and enforcement issues.

Kim Frost will be coordinating comments for Legacy Parkway. The Sierra Club has an alternative to Legacy Parkway using extension of rail services rather than a highway.

Bill Schlotthauer, Division of Water Rights, announced that the President of the United States signed the Lincoln County Lands Bill on December 1, 2004. The Southern Nevada Water Authority Project is in progress. The U.S. Geological Survey has 6 million dollars and 30 months to produce a water study of the Snake Valley and the surrounding area. Study scoping meetings will be held in Las Vegas, Ely and Carson City, Nevada. An official Utah representative will be appointed soon.

Dorothy Boulton and Jim Riley from the Division of Water Rights will be retiring soon.

III. Review of Proposed Items as Listed on the Project Management Library

Karl Kappe asked what the state's office position on the Moab Tailings Remediation #4720, and #4659, proposal to move mine tailings off-site to protect aquatic resources. This will be investigated and announced.

IV. Other Discussion Topics

Next month RDCC will hold the elections for the chair and vice-chair.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 a.m. The next meeting will be held on January 11, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., in room 1060.